

"conveyed and understood, by the Court, it was finally granted and agreed by the same Court, that the City at their charges shall provide an apt and mete place for the said purpise: and that he shall receive knowledge of the same here upon Mondays next comynge." A committee was then nominated to view and consider of several proposed sites, with the expense of each; "and to make reports thereof to my L. Mayre, and his brethren the Aldermen, upon Sunday next, at vny of the clock, in the Chappell in Poule's Church wherethy they doe usually assemble before the sermon-tyme." On the 8th of the same month, it was "fully assented, consentyd, and agreed, by the hole Courte here, that the burse shal be buydd and made bytwene Lumbard-street and Corhill."

Some notion of the value of the property required, was shewn by the Court authorizing "xxij yere's purchase" to be given for the houses bought of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury; and several succeeding extracts exhibited the manner in which the "benevolence and aid of the xij hedd compaynes," and "the Governours of the Merchaut Aventure, and of the staple beyond the sea," were solicited "towards the fynishinge of the Burse." Mr. Tite also read part of a very curious official letter to the former association, requiring their benevolence of 400 marks (266l. 13s. 4d.) should "be readye to be paid to us within these two moethes." The mayor's precept was also issued for payment of the different sums allotted to the twelve companies; all which contributions amounted to 1,536l. 9s. 7½d.: the expenses of the property bought for the site of the Exchange being 2,208l. 6s. 8d. for the freehold; 1,222l. 14s. for the leasehold; and 101l. 16s. 6d. petty charges; making a total of 3,532l. 17s. 2d. to be provided by the City. The materials of the buildings taken down sold for 478l. 3s. 4d.

Mr. Tite then noticed, that on Feb. 9th, 1565 (1566), Sir Thomas Gresham "did most frankly and lovingly graunte and promyse, that within one moeth next after the buildyng and fully fynishyng of the Burse and Burse-purpases, and other buildyngs intended, he would assure to the Citty for the Citty's use, the moetye of all the said Burse, etc. and for the sewer performance of the premysses, the said Sir Thomas, in the presence of the persons aforesaid, did give his hande to Sir William Garrard, and dranke a carouse to Thomas Rowe." Notwithstanding all this public spirit, however, nearly twelvemonths before the completion of the Burse, a royal proclamation was published against "some very lowde and evell-disposed personne or persones," who had "cutt, mangled, and defaced, the creaste conyngs, and mantell, of the armes of Sir Thomas Gresham, sett upon the west dore of the steres ascending into the pawne, on the south side of the said building, to the greates discomforte and discouragge of the said Sir Thomas Gresham." It will be remembered, that the Royal Exchange was at length opened and named by Queen Elizabeth, on Jan. 23rd, 1571.

Sir Thomas Gresham died suddenly, at his house, in Bishopsgate-street, between six and seven o'clock in the evening of Nov. 21, 1579, on his return from the Exchange; and another extract, cited by Mr. Tite, dated 1610, noticed his "being cut off by untymely death, having left a parte of his royal monument unfinished; that is, xxx Pictures of Kings and Queenes of this land; and to that purpose left 30 roomes (niches) to place them in." The same document contained a proposal, that before any citizen should be finally elected alderman, he should be "enjoynd to pay the charge of making and fynishing one of the foresaid Kings or Queenes their pictures, to be erected in the places aforesaid in the Exchange, not exceeding 100 nobles (66l. 6s. 8d.); the pictures to be graven on wood, covered with lead, and then gilded and paynted in oyle colours." This scheme was partly adopted, by the Court of Common Council asking the erection of one such statue a part of the fine for being freed from the office of Sheriff. So long as thirty years before the destruction of the Exchange by the great fire, it appears to have been considered as being placed in considerable danger; an order of the Court of Aldermen declaring that the Court being "informed that certayne feather-makers and others that keepe shopp in the Upper-Pawne of the Royall Exchange, London, doe commonly use and keepe

pannes of fyre in their said shoppes, upon pretence of use thereof for their trades, which are conceived to be verie dangerous for firing the said shoppes; it is thought fitt, and soe ordered by this Court, that from henceforth one manner of fyre, either in panne, or any other thing whatsoever, shall be had or used in any of the shoppes aforesaid." The destruction of the first Royal Exchange in the Fire of London, on Monday, Sept. 4, 1666, closed the first division of Mr. Tite's discourse.

So early as Oct. 23, a survey of the rules was presented; and on Nov. 16, Mr. (Dr. Robert) Hooke, made a very curious report on them, which Mr. Tite read at length. In this it is stated, that "by making a particular estimate of the severall things to be done in order to the rebuilding of the Exchange anew, in the same forme as itt was of heretofore (abateing only the statues of the Kinges in the niches, and the arched roofe of stone over the walke, which I thinke would be better if made of plastered seeling, whereby all the cross-irons might be spared); to make the pillars, arches, architrave, frees, and cornice, and the borders of the niches, and the lower windowes, of Portland-stone, and to pave the walke with squared Parbeck-stone; that the whole charge will amount to betwene £4000 & £5000, supposing all the materials to be new bought; but the paveling for the most parte seemes good. The pedestals of all the pillars are very little damaged by the fyre."

Down to the time of the death of Sir Thomas Gresham, the affairs of the Royal Exchange had been conducted by himself and the Corporation of London; but they then passed under the management of the Gresham Committee, as the trustees appointed under his will, in connection with certain members nominated by the Corporation. Thus originated the Grand, or Joint-Committee, under whose direction was executed the rebuilding of the Royal Exchange, after the Great Fire. Mr. Tite next proceeded to show that the real architect of that edifice was Edward Jerman; but as we have already printed a very curious paper on that subject, we refer our readers to it, for much of the information contained in this part of the discourse. Two large and beautiful drawings of Jerman's designs for the building, executed in Indian ink upon vellum, illustrated this division of the subject. These drawings belong to R. W. Jupp, Esq., of Carpenters' Hall, and are considered to be cotemporary with Jerman's building.

Mr. Tite noticed it was a remarkable coincidence, that immediately after the fire, the Court of Aldermen "ordered that the Exchange shall be in the garden or walke of Gresham House;" being the site of the very spot on which the temporary Exchange was erected in 1832—the great court-yard of the Excise Office. Some curious particulars of payments, and of the providing and cost of materials for the second Exchange, were here introduced, of which we may notice a few. Thus, the clerk of the works was to receive 12s. per week; the working of "all mouldings whatsoever," was to be paid at 5s. 9d. per foot; all the smaller pillars, slated, were to be 8d. each, and the four greater 12d.; and on Dec. 9th, 1667, "the Committee, considering that Mr. Jerman, who was chosen surveyor for rebuilding the Exchange, in April last, hath not yet received any gratification for his paines about drawing drafts, and directing the

building;—ordered that 50l. shall be paid him upon account, until further consideration of his merits." Another payment, remarkably characteristic of the manners of the period, was also made at this time. It was, by the Committee, to Sir John Denham, the poet, "His Majesty's Surveyor-General of his Workes, for his trouble from time to time, in coming down to view the Exchange, and streets adjoining; as also in furthering their addresses to His Majesty, and giving them full warrants for Portland-stone;" and the Committee, therefore, ordered provision to be made "of six or eight dishes of meate at the Sun Tavern, on Wednesday next, to intertaine him withal at his coming downe, and to present him with thirty guiney plasses of gold, as a token of their gratitude."

On Oct. 23rd, in the same year, King Charles II. fixed the first pillar for the re-edifying of the Exchange, on the west side of the north entrance. "He was entertained," says the official entry of the event, "by the City and Company, with a chine of beef, grand dish of fowl, gammons of bacon, dried tongues, anchovies, caviare, etc., and plenty of several sorts of wine. He gave 20l. in gold to the workmen. The intertynment was in a shedd built and adorned on purpose, upon the Scotch walke." On the 31st, the Duke of York founded the corresponding pier; and on Nov. 18th, Prince Rupert fixed the pillar on the east side of the south entrance; both being similarly entertained.

The King interested himself so far in the architectural appearance of the edifice, as to desire, that portions might be built on all sides of the Exchange; and hence, Mr. Tite took occasion to notice the difficulties which arose between the Committee and the possessors of the property required; and in especial, with Van Swieten, or Sweetings, as he is usually called. About seven hundred superficial feet were wanted of his ground at the east end of the Exchange, and about one thousand four hundred feet more for a street or passage; for which he declared that he expected to be paid according to the cheapest rate that any other ground should be bought at. When, however, he appeared before the sub-committee, he demanded 1,000l. for six hundred and twenty-seven feet, which was thought so unreasonable that they laid it aside.

The architect, Jerman, did not live to complete the Exchange; and, on Nov. 28th, 1668, the Committee directed Mr. Cartwright, the mason, to proceed vigorously with the work, he having declared himself master of the whole designs intended for the building. In April, 1669, Dr. Wren (Sir Christopher) first appears connected with this Exchange; he then being solicited by the Committee to advise with them concerning the difficulty and charge of erecting porticoes on the east and west sides, and to represent the same to his Majesty. The King subsequently left this matter to their discretion, to act as might be the most conducive to their own interest.

A remarkable decoration was originally proposed for this building, which is now known only by the series of official extracts brought forward by Mr. Tite. The celebrated Sir Robert Viner appeared at a committee, on March 22nd, 1668 (1669), and proffered to give his Majesty's statue on horseback, cut in white marble, to stand upon the Royal Exchange. They expressed their high sense of his noble proffer, but after sending a "deputation" to view the bignesse of the said statue, and to consider how and where it may be placed, it was declined, because it would hinder the prospect through both doors; it would take up too much of that room, which is already too little to contain the concourse of merchants. Sir Robert Viner afterwards gave this statue to be erected over the conduit at Stock-market.

The building now approached completion, and Mr. Tite noticed a variety of curious circumstances connected therewith. Thus we find that Caius Gabriel Cibber was appointed to be the carver; that the clock was to be set up by Edward Stanton, under the direction of Dr. Hook, having chimed with four bells, playing six tunes, the payment for which was to be 120l., with a conditional gratuity of 10l.; that William Wightman was to furnish a set of sound and tuneable bells, at 6d. 5s. per cwt.; that four balconies were to be made from the inner-pawne into the quadrangle, at a charge of not more than 300l.; and that the signs to the

\* Mr. Tite referred to the will of Sir Thomas Gresham, in this part of the paper, and pointed out its objects. Sir Thomas Gresham left the Exchange during the life of his widow to her use; and at her death, he left his mansion in Threadneedle-street, now occupied by the Excise Office, for a college, to be called Gresham College. This was intended to be a London University in its objects and its usefulness; and it so continued and flourished accordingly, the funds for its support being provided by the rents of the shops and houses of the Exchange. By the Great Fire this source of income was entirely cut off; and not only so, but the five Corporation of the City of London, and the Mercers' Company, incurred a debt of nearly 60,000l. in rebuilding the Exchange. They, notwithstanding, out of their own resources, continued the College, until the year 1743, when the debt amounted to no less a sum than 111,000l. In 1766, the College was put up and so, by an Act of Parliament, and the site let to the Commissioners of Excise. The Gresham Professors were always continued, and gave their lectures in a room in the Exchange, up to the recent fire. Since the fire of 1827, the Gresham Committee have, from their own funds, rebuilt Gresham College, in Gresham-street, at an expense of upwards of 10,000l.; and the debt incurred by the two Corporations, in rebuilding the Exchange, and rebuilding also houses, founded also by Sir Thomas Gresham, amounts now to considerably more than 200,000l. And thus these two great Corporations have most nobly and disinterestedly carried out the objects of Sir Thomas Gresham; but, at the same time, at this great pecuniary sacrifice.